

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for scanning radio frequency identification (RFID) data from at least one RFID tag, comprising:
a housing containing at least a portion of an RFID scanner;
means for affixing the housing to a portion of an operator's body; and
means for automatically scanning said at least one RFID tag without manual intervention by the operator, including means for periodically communicating an interrogating RF signal to determine whether an RFID tag is in proximity.
2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said RFID scanner further comprises an antenna, a radio transmitter/receiver coupled to the antenna, and a processor adapted to control operation of the radio transmitter/receiver.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said housing contains said antenna, and said radio transmitter/receiver and processor are disposed externally of said housing.
4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said housing contains said antenna, said radio transmitter/receiver, and said processor.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said housing further contains a power source adapted to provide power for said RFID scanner.
6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said affixing means further comprises a strap adapted to affix the housing to a wrist or hand of the operator.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising means for communicating said RFID data to an external system.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said communicating means further comprises a wireless local area network.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said communicating means further comprises an infrared link.

10. (Currently amended) A system for collecting radio frequency identification (RFID) data, comprising:

a housing containing at least a portion of an RFID scanner;

means for affixing the housing to a portion of an operator's body; and

at least one RFID tag;

wherein, the RFID scanner is adapted to scan said at least one RFID tag when disposed in proximity to said housing; and

wherein said RFID scanner periodically communicates an interrogating RF signal to determine whether an RFID tag is in proximity and thereafter automatically scans said at least one RFID tag without manual intervention by the operator.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said RFID scanner further comprises an antenna, a radio transmitter/receiver coupled to the antenna, and a processor adapted to control operation of the radio transmitter/receiver.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein said housing contains said antenna, and said radio transmitter/receiver and processor are disposed externally of said housing.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein said housing contains said antenna, said radio transmitter/receiver, and said processor.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein said housing further contains a power source adapted to provide power for said RFID scanner.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said affixing means further comprises a strap adapted to affix the housing to a wrist or hand of the operator.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising means for communicating said RFID data to an external system.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein said communicating means further comprises a wireless local area network.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein said communicating means further comprises an infrared link.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said automatically scanning means further comprises means for periodically transmitting an interrogating signal to determine if said at least one RFID tag has been brought into a detection proximity.

22. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said RFID scanner periodically transmits an interrogating signal to determine if said at least one RFID tag has been brought into said proximity to said housing.